

S E C R E T

7 September 1979
MPS 33-79

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT : Updated Guidelines for Declassification of Documents
of the Office of Technical Service (S)

REFERENCE : Memo for C/OTS/MPS from [] C/CRD,
"Declassification Guidelines for OTS Records and
Material", dated 16 August 1979

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1. The referenced memorandum contains a reference to OTS guidelines for declassification prepared on 29 July 1977 that, in the context of the current request, remain pertinent and valid. Those guidelines are:

A. The following guidelines apply to those documents and files maintained by the Office of Technical Service subject to declassification. These guidelines should supersede those of any other Agency component when that component maintains files which, in whole or in part, duplicate those held by OTS which require continuing protection.

B. Office of Technical Service documents certified as requiring continued protection beyond 30 years may be retained at the CONFIDENTIAL level. Continued protection of this information is warranted under exemptions cited in Section 5(B)(2), 5(B)(3), and 5(B)(4) of Executive Order 11652. The following categories of documents require continued protection:

(1) Information on contractual relationships with private industry, consultants, research and educational institutions (foreign and domestic)--review 30 years after termination of relationship.

(2) R&D files containing the complete history of each project from the initial operational requirements through planning, contract initiation, research, design and testing, to production and deployment of equipment and techniques in the following areas:

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2. In paragraph 3 of the reference is the inference that some OSS/SSD material may be leniently declassified "because of age and reduced sensitivity". Although it is true that most of the material is obsolete, it represents first attempts or early uses of items and techniques that in post war years were refined and improved for continuing Agency use. Many of the OSS items were dropped immediately at the war's end; others remained to take on new life in a variety of paramilitary and covert action operations, up through our efforts in the Viet Nam War. If someone started researching early, easily accessible material they could certainly ascertain developmental trends and, upon encountering release restrictions on more recent material, initiate legal or FOIA/PA actions or, equally dismaying, initiate media speculation about the devious things we must have done with the still-classified items and techniques.

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3. Then there is the present terrorist problem. There is a great deal of material derived from official military manuals as well as Agency manuals and catalogues available to average individuals. While some terrorist organizations have graduated to relatively new items and techniques, there are still a number that would rely on the older, proven ways as described in these publications who might be inspired to corroborate such information with access to the original, but still controlled, documents. (C)

4. The prospect for anything edifying or constructive from someone's research into these records is bleak at best. While this may seem a pessimistic conclusion and presumptive of motive, it is, more importantly, prudent in view of what has been published and perpetrated in the past several years. Therefore, the controls detailed in paragraphs 1 and 2 should be continued for older, obsolete material as well as newer, current items and techniques. (C)



Chief

OTS Missions and Programs Staff

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